

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants has amended the claims to more clearly define his invention. In particular, applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to recite that the invention uses a perforated drum to transfer the nonwoven material from the pressing roller pair to the second transport device. See, Figure 3 and the description thereof at page 3, last paragraph. Applicant has also amended page 3 of the specification to provide antecedent basis for original claims 3 and 7. Applicant has also canceled claims 2, 6, 8 -10 and 14 and has amended the remaining claims to be consistent with the amendments to claims 1 and 5. Claims 1 and 18 have also been amended to eliminate the informalities noted by the Examiner.

In view of the cancellation of claims 2, 6, 8 - 10 and 14, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) at the top of page 2 of the office action are requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 18, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to these claims at the bottom of page 2 of the office action are requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 3 and 7 and the cancellation of claims 8 and 9, it is submitted all of the claims comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 7 - 9 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, are requested.

In view of the cancellation of claims 8 - 10, the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is moot.

Claims 1, 3 - 6, 8 - 10 and 14 - 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as

allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,915,613 to Meschenmoser. Applicant traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration thereof, at least insofar as this rejection applies to the claims presently in the application.

The present invention relates to a method and device for delivering a thin nonwoven material from a pressing roller pair traversed only by the nonwoven material to a second transport device, e.g., an adjacent roller for further transport. The presently claimed invention uses a perforated drum on which the nonwoven material is held by a partial vacuum during the transfer as well as delivery. See, e.g., Figure 3 and the description thereof on page 3 of the specification.

The patent to Meschenmoser discloses a suction web transfer device which includes a transfer belt guided around a plurality of web guide rollers and positioned against a portion of a pick-up cylinder. The transfer device may also include a suction box for creating at least a partial vacuum between the web guide rolls to transfer a fibrous web from the pick-up cylinder to the transfer belt. As admitted by the Examiner in connection with the rejection of claims 7, 11 and 12, the patent to Meschenmoser does not disclose the use of a perforated drum against which the nonwoven material is held by a partial vacuum.

Moreover, in Meschenmoser, the fibrous web 3 is guided via a transport belt or wet felt 7 through a roller nip formed by pressed cylinder 5 in a linked second pressed cylinder 9. In contrast, according to the present invention, the pressing roller pair is traversed only by the nonwoven material, i.e., the present invention does not use a transport belt or wet felt as in Meschenmoser. Accordingly, the problem to be solved by the present invention is different than that is Meschenmoser. Accordingly, it is

submitted the Meschenmoser patent does not disclose and would not have suggested the presently claimed invention.

Claims 7, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Meschenmoser in view of United States Patent No. 6,050,469 to Brabant. Applicant traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration thereof.

The deficiencies of Meschenmoser are noted above. The patent to Brabant et al discloses a suction cylinder which transfers a fiber web from a conveyor belt to two calendering cylinders. However, there is no suggestion in either Brabant et al or Meschenmoser that the suction cylinder of the type disclosed in Brabant et al can be used to transfer a nonwoven material which passes by itself between a pressing roller pair to a second transfer device. Rather in Brabant et al, the suction cylinder transfers the fiber web to, not from, a calender roller pair. Accordingly, it is submitted there would have been no motivation to combine the teachings of Meschenmoser and Brabant et al to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Therefore, the presently claimed invention is patentable over the proposed combination of references.

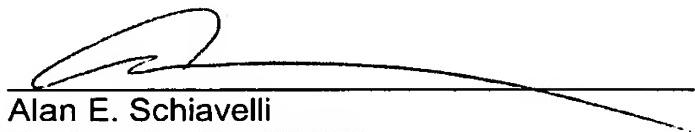
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry,

Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 865.41078X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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